

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2918

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL

SUBJ: GON VIEWS ON EC NINE FONMINS DECISIONS RE OPENING OF
DIALOGUE WITH ARAB STATES AND CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN LYNDEN ASKED CHARGE
TO SEE HIM AFTERNOON OF JUNE 11, ON INSTRUCTIONS OF FONMIN VAN
DER STOEL (WHO HAD WANTED TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR GOULD),
TO RECEIVE DUTCH VIEWS ON DECISIONS JUST TAKEN BY EC NINE FONMINS
REGARDING OPENING OF DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS AND ON CONSULTATIONS
WITH NON-EC NINE STATES. VAN LYNDEN, A VETERAN OF MANY SUCH
MEETINGS, WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS ONE.
TONE AND CLIMATE WERE MUCH BETTER, THANKS IN LARGE PART (IN VAN
LYNDEN'S VIEW) TO ABSENCE OF PREPONDERANT GAULLIST ELEMENT IN
PRESENT GOF. VAN LYNDEN THOUGHT SAUVAGNARGUES A GREAT IMPROVEMENT
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OVER JOBERT AND COMPLIMENTED FONMIN GENSCHER ON AN EXCELLENT JOB

AS CHAIRMAN, WHICH ENABLED THE MEETING TO WIND UP SEVERAL HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

1. RE DIALOGUE WITH ARABS, VAN LYNDEN SAID MINISTERS HAD AGREED - AND GENSCHER WOULD SAY AS MUCH IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE - THAT IT COULD NOT PROCEED INTO SECOND PHASE UNLESS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ONE OF THE MEMBER EC STATES (I.E. OIL BOYCOTT AGAINST THE NETHERLANDS) WAS REMOVED. SAUVAGNARGUES MADE CLEAR THAT FRENCH WERE IN FAVOR OF CONSULTING US AS THE DIALOGUE PROGRESSED ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON FREQUENCY OR EXTENT OF CONSULTATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, GON WAS HAPPY THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS BEING HANDLED IN A MUCH BETTER WAY AS REGARDS ITS IMPACT ON US-EC RELATIONS. THE DUTCH WERE CONFIDENT NOW, THANKS TO THE IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE FRENCH ATTITUDE AND APPROACH, THAT THERE WOULD BE SATISFACTORY CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. VAN LYNDEN SHOWED DCM TEXT (IN FRENCH) OF A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" REACHED BY THE FONMINS RE CONSULTATIONS WITH FRIENDLY OR ALLIED STATES. FOLLOWING IS ROUGH RENDITION BASED ON CHARGE'S NOTES:

3. AFTER NOTING THAT IT IS NATURAL THAT THIS QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS WITH FRIENDLY OR ALLIED STATE SHOULD ARISE, THE MINISTERS AGREED TO PROCEED ON PRAGMATIC, CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. CONSULTATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE EC PRESIDENCY, DULY AUTHORIZED BY HIS EIGHT PARTNERS. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO SAYING THAT IF ONE OF THE NINE PROPOSES CONSULTATIONS THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION AND IF A CONSENSUS IS REACHED, PRESIDENCY WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO CONDUCT THE CONSULTATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE CONSENSUS. THE MINISTERS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PRACTICE OF THIS INFORMAL "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" WILL LIKEWISE LEAD TO FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US, TAKING DUE CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES.

4. IN REPLY TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, VAN LYNDEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OPERATIVE WORD AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE CONSULTATIONS ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT WAS "CONSENSUS." HE SAID THAT VAN DER STOEL HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT GON POSITION ON THIS POINT WAS THAT IF A MEMBER STATE'S PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS WAS DENIED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEN THERE COULD BE NO FURTHER EC ACTION ON ISSUE AT HAND. ON ANOTHER QUESTION, VAN LYNDEN HAD NO REAL EXPLANATION FOR QUALIFIER "FLEXIBLE" IN CONSULTATIONS WITH US OTHER THAN TO SUGGEST INTENT WAS FOR CONSULTATIONS TO BE A TWO-WAY PROCESS. TANGUY

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